

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sterilization apparatus comprising:

a chamber in which a material to be sterilized is stored and a sterilizing step is performed to sterilize the material with steam of high temperature and high pressure;

an opening/closing mechanism which opens and closes the chamber;

a cooling mechanism which cools the material sterilized in the chamber, in a state isolated thermally from the inside of the chamber; and

a control section which drives the cooling mechanism as the opening/closing mechanism opens the chamber after the sterilizing step ends, thereby to cool the material.

2. The sterilization apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the cooling mechanism has moving means for moving the material out of the chamber, and cooling means for cooling the material moved out of the chamber by the moving means; and

the control section has operation-processing means for driving the moving means as the opening/closing means opens the chamber after the sterilizing step ends, thereby to move the material out of the chamber, and then driving the cooling means to cool the material.

3. A container for sterilization comprising:  
a containing section in which a material to be  
sterilized is stored;

an intake port and an exhaust port of a gas, at  
5 least either one of which is connectable to a gas  
circulation mechanism to circulate the gas inside the  
containing section; and

a germ trapping filter disposed at least in the  
intake port.

10 4. The container for sterilization according to  
claim 3, wherein the container can be autoclaved.

5. The container for sterilization according to  
claim 3, wherein the gas circulation mechanism is  
a vacuum pump disposed in an autoclave device.

15 6. The container for sterilization according to  
claim 3, wherein the gas circulation mechanism is  
a pressurizing device which is detachably attached to  
the material to be sterilized and which changes  
a pressure inside the material.

20 7. A container for sterilization comprising:  
a containing section in which a material to be  
sterilized is stored;

a connection section connected to means for  
supplying and discharging fluid that cools or  
25 sterilizes the material, provided in the containing  
section and configured to supply and discharge the  
fluid to and from the containing section; and

a blocking mechanism provided in the connection section and configured to supply and discharge the fluid while the connection section remains connected to the means for supplying and discharging the fluid, and  
5 to block off a passage for supplying and discharging the fluid while the connection section remains disconnected from the means for supplying and discharging the fluid.

8. The container for sterilization according to  
10 claim 7, further comprising a germ trapping filter disposed in the connection section.

9. A sterilization apparatus, comprising:  
a container for sterilization including  
a containing section in which a material to be  
15 sterilized is stored, a connection section which supplies/discharges a fluid to sterilize/cool the stored material with respect to the outside, and a blocking mechanism which is disposed in the connection section and which can communicate to supply/discharge  
20 the fluid in a connected state of the connection section and which blocks off the supply/discharge of the fluid in a non-connected state of the connection section;

a chamber in which the material or the container  
25 for sterilization is stored to sterilize the material by steam having a high pressure and temperature; and  
fluid supply means capable of supplying at least

one of a sterilization fluid to sterilize the material and a cooling fluid to cool the material via the connection section.

10. The sterilization apparatus according to  
5 claim 9, wherein the container for sterilization includes a sterilization case and a sterilization pack, and the sterilization case and the sterilization pack include a nozzle which is the connection section and which supplies/discharges a fluid to sterilize and cool  
10 the stored material to be sterilized with respect to the outside.

11. A sterilization apparatus comprising:  
a container for sterilization including a  
containing section in which a material to be sterilized  
15 is stored, and an opening via which a fluid is supplied/discharged to sterilize and cool the stored material;

a chamber in which the container for sterilization is stored to sterilize the material by steam having a  
20 high pressure and temperature in a sterilization position;

a moving mechanism which moves the container for sterilization between the sterilization position where the material is sterilized and a cooling position where  
25 the material is cooled; and

cooling means for supplying/recovering the cooling fluid which cools the material in the cooling position

via the opening.

12. The sterilization apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

5 opening/closing means for opening/closing the chamber; and

control means for opening the opening/closing means with end of the sterilization treatment, moving the material to be sterilized to the cooling position by the moving mechanism and cooling the material by the  
10 cooling means.